(d) whether the casual workers employed for more than five years are going to be regularised; and

(e) if so, by when and the contemplated mechanism in this regard?;

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. There are 539 casual workers engaged in Passport Offices all over India.

(b) The casual workers have been employed over the years to handle the increased workload and to meet the expectations of public in issuing passports on time. The demand for passports has been growing without a corresponding increase in the number of employees in the Central Passport Organisation.

(c) Casual workers are given the work of non-sensitive nature and, hence, the security is not compromised.

(d) and (e) Casual workers are being gradually absorbed against vacancies in the Group 'D' posts of the Central Passport Organisation. In addition, Ministry of External Affairs has approached the Department of Personnel & Training for approval to conduct a Limited Departmental Examination for the casual workers having requisite educational qualifications to fill-in the available vacancies in Group 'C'.

Extradition of Dawood Ibrahim

1903. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that intelligence reports say that Dawood Ibrahim is in Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken so far or proposed to be taken through diplomatic and other means to extradite the underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, who is accused in many cases apart from Mumbai blasts?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) There are report that Dawood Ibrahim resides in

Karachi and is being allowed to conduct his underworld activities from Pakistan.

It is well known that Pakistan, as part of its policy of sponsoring cross-border terrorism in India, has been providing refuge and safe havens to known criminals and terrorists responsible for heinous crimes in India. Government have on numerous occasions called upon Pakistan to end its sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in India, and to arrest and extradite these criminals and terrorists so that they can be brought to justice. During the July 2001 Agra Summit, Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee also raised this issue with the President of Pakistan. Prime Minister noted that terrorists and criminals responsible for heinous crimes in India including the Mumbai bomb blasts in 1993, as also the hijacking of IC 814, were living in Pakistan. He asked that they should be arrested and handed over to India so that they could be brought to justice. During his meeting with President Musharraf, on 14th July, 2001, Home Minister Shri L.K. Advani had raised this issue with the Pakistan President.

Assault on Indian Diplomat in Pakistan

1904. SHRI BHAGAT RAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI ANANTA SETHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item titled "Indian High Commission employee beaten up" which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times,' New Delhi dated the 9th November, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of Indian officials beaten up, tortured, harassed by the Pakistan intelligence officials during the last three years; and

(c) what action Government have contemplated to lodge protests in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.